

November 17, 1997. A certified copy of the translation of this document is enclosed to this response.

Therefore, since Applicants have perfected their priority back to November 17, 1997, the Atsumi reference, published on December 22, 1997, is not longer available as prior art under 35 USC 102.

For this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the only pending rejection standing in the present application.

Correction Request for Face of File

Applicants request the Examiner to confirm the continuing data on the face of the instant application file. On the filing receipt, dated February 9, 2000, this application is noted as being a CON of 09/193,928. This is not the case. This application was filed as a DIV of 09/193,928. Correction of this error, prior to allowance, and issuance of a corrected filing receipt, is requested.

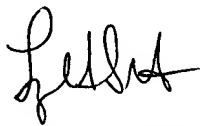
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance. Early notice to that end is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4550.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value,
he is requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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July 19, 2001

Attachments: Translation of JP 9-314867
Certificate of Accuracy of Translation